

VIETNAM COMMUNISTS WIN U.S.A. PREJUDICE BRINGS DEFEAT

By Maj. Gen. T. A. Lane, USA, Ret.

It may be early to attempt a definitive appraisal of the Diem administration in South Vietnam. It is not too early to identify the cynical propaganda with which those who betrayed him, seek to exculpate their guilt.

The mechanics of hysteria in South Vietnam was earlier demonstrated in Cuba. Castro came to power on a wave of anti-Batista emotionalism. His mass execution of political opponents was condoned as a form of "justice." Only the erosion of time made clear to the misguided how wrong they had been. Hysteria does not tolerate reason.

There were important differences in South Vietnam. Whereas Batista was a venal politician with frailties which could convincingly be exaggerated, President Ngo Dinh Diem was a man of exemplary character, of selfless devotion to his country, of deep humanity. The campaign of vilification had to be made of whole cloth.

The scheme was designed by the Communists with consummate skill. President Diem was vulnerable in being a Catholic, a minority religion in the country. He was doubly vulnerable in depending for support upon a Catholic president of the United States. The communists shrewdly figured that the American president could not support President Diem in a conflict with another religious group, whatever the merits of the issue might be.

They had at hand the means for the job. In the war with France, the communist leader Ho-Chi-Minh had found the Buddhist robes a convenient cover for his agents. He had "bonzes" planted in South Vietnam where they could stir up religious conflict. They dominated the Buddhist Association, a new organization, which represented about 8 percent of the Vietnamese population.

After the initial rioting at Hue in May, President Diem sought to resolve the complaints. He found that the Buddhist Association leaders were determined to overthrow his government. There was no middle ground on which the complaints could be adjudicated. Diem was destroyed because the U.S. government would not support his rejection of the impossible demands of the Buddhist Association.

One measure of President Diem is that all his enemies are alive. When air force rebels in 1960 bombed his palace into such a shambles that he had to abandon it, one of the guilty pilots was captured. Obviously, a trial would require conviction and execution of the lieutenant. The president never brought the young man to trial. Diem refused to take a life for political reasons, even for rebellion.

With everyone else in Saigon knowing of the conspiracy of his officers, President Diem must have had information of it. Perhaps he refused to believe that these men whom he had appointed to their high positions could be so mad. Caesar made the same mistake. Perhaps he could not believe that the U.S. would promote such betrayal. He did not realize that a Catholic president of the U.S. could not support what was right and just.

History will show that President Diem was too humane and charitable to survive in the climate of power in 1963. He was not ruthless enough to arrest and execute the military conspirators and replace them with loyal men. He tried too long to placate the implacable Buddhist Association. He would not even deport the misguided American reporters who were his bitter enemies. He tried instead to conciliate and resolve differences without the harsh measures so necessary to the survival of his government but so foreign to his character. His mildness encouraged rebellion.



Abba Philip Schwartz (Jew)
Architect of U.S. Policy in Vietnam

President Diem has been replaced by more ruthless men who, like Castro, do not hesitate to execute their prisoners. The propaganda stories that Diem and Nhu committed suicide are transparent fraud. They were executed by a captain dispatched from headquarters; and a captain sent to bring in important prisoners does not execute them unless he has been told to do so.

Ngo Dinh Diem was a product of the highest culture and ideals of the West, striving to make his vision real for the Vietnamese people. He was the victim of sordid aspects of western civilization which he did not know.

VIETNAM BETRAYED BY STATE DEPT.

Mme. Ngo Dinh Nhu, deposed First Lady of South Vietnam vowed today to return to her strife-torn country, and labeled the death of her husband (Ngo Dinh Nhu) and brother-in-law (President Ngo Dinh Diem) a "dirty crime and nothing less than murder." Mme. Nhu . . . told about 100 newsmen that "if those reports of the treasonable death of the Nhu family are true, it will only be the beginning of the story in Vietnam."

The New York News Washington Bureau reported on Nov. 2, that President Kennedy was preparing to order speedy diplomatic recognition and resumption of aid for the new military regime in Vietnam. JFK was holding up his decision pending a final okay from Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.

On Nov. 24, Mme. Nhu sent a telegram to Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, which read in part: ". . . I would not wish for anyone (to endure) what the Vietnamese and myself are now enduring while we were so near our victory against Communism . . . Indeed, such a murder where even the wounds inflicted on President Kennedy were identical to those of President Ngo Dinh Diem, and of my husband, and coming only 20 days after the Vietnamese tragedy, would only prove to the world that even power or extreme graciousness with Communism still does not protect from its traitorous blows."

The late President Ngo Dinh Diem was sold out by his trusted personal military advisor, Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh (who was apparently financed by C.I.A. funds).

In October, 1961, "a fast game of tennis" was held at a Saigon officers' club with the

following players: General Minh (Diem's betrayer); General Maxwell Taylor (former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff—now Ambassador to South Vietnam, replacing H. Cabot Lodge); and Walt W. Rostow (Jew), State Department Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council.

On April 22, 1964, Mme. Nhu stated that:

On the "recommendation" of the American Embassy in Vietnam, the whole of Center Vietnam . . . has been turned over to Thich Tri Quang, that "bonze" who uses the "buddhist" label, but whose communist past is well-known, and whose brother is Ho Chi Minh's Interior Ministry supervisor for subversive operations in the South, particularly for infiltration into foreign agencies in Saigon. The delegates and administrators of Center Vietnam are now named only with the accord of Tri Quang and they act under his directives and those of his handful of hoodlums calling themselves "buddhists."

Ngo Dinh Can, younger brother of the late President Diem, was executed before a firing squad in Saigon on May 9, 1964. Can, a diabetic and heart case, was carried from his cell to a soccer field inside the Prison. Two guards helped him walk the final few feet to a pole, where he was bound, blindfolded, and shot.

On April 17, 1964, Mme. Nhu stated: "Mr. Ngo Dinh Can put himself in the care only of the Canadian Redemptorist Fathers of Hue, of whom he is (was) the benefactor. These persons, deluded by the Consulate and the Embassy of the U.S. in Vietnam, which assured them that Mr. Can would be safer in their hands, turned Mr. Can over to American care . . . Mr. Ngo Dinh Can, under the guarantee of the Canadian Redemptorist Fathers of Hue, was . . . turned over, without his knowing it, to the Americans, who abused the good faith of those priests by delivering their benefactor to his worst enemies. It is truly time that the United States understand that the crimes perpetuated by their ambassador since Nov. 1963 in Vietnam (Henry Cabot Lodge) are sufficient, for he is only a gravedigger for those who trust him."

NO PASSPORTS FOR PATRIOTS

The syndicated Allen-Scott column, June 18, 1964, headlined: "Madame Nhu U.S. tour blocked by State Dept. . . . Abba Schwartz, director of the Bureau of Consular and Security Affairs, whose 'advisory opinions' have cleared the way for the admission of a number of controversial aliens, is personally handling the stalling of Mme. Nhu's . . . visa . . . Schwartz is credited as having the full approval of Secretary Rusk."

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 22, that Section 6 of the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950 is "unconstitutional on its face." (N.Y. News, June 23, 1964) Section 6 provided that any member of a Communist-action, Communist-front or Communist-infiltrated organization who uses a U.S. passport, or even applies for one, is guilty of a felony and punishable by a maximum \$10,000 fine and 5 years in prison. In early 1962, several months after Section 6 became law, the State Dept. revoked the passports of leading American Communists, including those of Party Chairman, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Herbert Aptheker, editor of "Political Affairs" a party organ. (Time magazine, July 3, 1964). The Supreme Court majority decision was orally presented by Justice Arthur Goldberg. In the June 28, 1964 Communist "Worker," Elizabeth Gurley Flynn wrote that "This is a victory . . . for us and for all Communists." Miss Flynn and Aptheker were represented before the Warren Court by Attorney John Abt (Worker, June 28, 1964). This is the same John Abt that Lee Oswald requested to represent him at his trial.

A dissenting opinion was written on the June 22 decision by Justice Tom Clark which said that "Congress had ample evidence that use of passports by Americans belonging to the world Communist movement is a threat to our national security."

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"The State Department 'does itself and our national reputation a disservice by arbitrarily denying visas to members of the free world coalition . . . while it grants visas, apparently without restrictions, to those who are committed to the subversion and destruction of the free world.' —U.S. Sen. Thomas Dodd